ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Thursday, September 11, 2008

STATE WINS ESPINOZA CASE; AIMS TEST REQUIREMENT FOR GRADUATION IS INTACT

PHOENIX (Thursday, September 11, 2008) – Arizona Schools Chief Tom Horne announced today a major victory in the legal case that threatened Arizona's AIMS test. The Maricopa County Superior Court has ruled against the Plaintiffs in Espinoza, vs. Arizona State Board of Education. The court ruled <u>against</u> the Plaintiffs' claims that the state has violated the Arizona Constitution by failing "to provide the programs, services and resources that are necessary in order for economically disadvantaged students to achieve the state's prescribed academic standards."

Horne added: "This is a defeat against the forces of mediocrity."

A copy of the Court's decision is attached.

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